House Set to Fight For Wiretap Data Out & Data United Press International

The House wants American Telephone and Telegraph Co. to turn over its records on government wiretaps, and it is willing to finance a court fight with the White House over the issue.

By 180 to 143, the House Thursday agreed to finance a court test of President Ford's effort to block a congressional subpoena of AT&T records.

The decision means \$50.000 will go to provide outside counsel in the battle with Mr. Ford, who has asked a federal court to deny the records on grounds of national security.

The House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, chaired by Rep. John Moss (D Calif.), sought the records after AT&T officials said they made the taps, mainly of overseas cables, under authorization of the Attorney General, but without court approval.

In arguing for the President's position, Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) said, "We're going to the mat with the chief executive over a fight that is totally needless because he has indicated his willingness to discuss the issue."

in the last